

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01140 080925Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----111016 080929Z /12/41

O 071558Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7417
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1140

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, PDEV
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: APPROACH TO FRONTLINE STATES

REF: USUN 02302

1. THE CAPE TOWN FIVE HELD A MEETING THIS AFTERNOON,
JUNE 7, TO HEAR A REPORT FROM UK AMB SCOTT ON
CONVERSATIONS HE HAD HAD WITH FOURIE YESTERDAY AND THIS
MORNING, AND TO CONSIDER THE TALKING POINTS PREPARED
BY THE NEW YORK CONTACT GROUP FOR USE WITH THE FRONTLINE
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STATES (REFTEL).

2. FOURIE TOLD SCOTT YESTERDAY THAT THE SAG HAD NOT
YET DECIDED PRECISELY HOW IT WOULD PROCEED ON THE
VOTER REGISTRATION QUESTION, THOUGH WHATEVER WAS
DONE WOULD PROBABLY COME FROM ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL
STEYN. IT MIGHT TAKE THE FORM OF A PROCLAMATION OR

AN INFORMAL STATEMENT, THE CONTENT OF WHICH MIGHT EVEN BE RATHER GENERAL IN NATURE. WHEN SCOTT ADVISED HIM OF KAUNDA'S HOPE FOR A FRONTLINE SUMMIT ON JUNE 9, FOURIE SAID HE DOUBTED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DELAY SOME KIND OF STATEMENT BY THE AG ON VOTER REGISTRATION. IN THEIR BRIEF CONVERSATION THIS MORNING, FOURIE TOLD SCOTT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE, THOUGH THERE WOULD BE A MEETING TODAY WITH BOTHA AND THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE QUESTION. FOURIE UNDERTOOK TO ADVISE SCOTT IN ADVANCE OF WHAT THE SAG INTENDED TO DO.

3. IN LIGHT OF THE UNCERTAINTY CAST BY FOURIE'S COMMENTS ON SAG INTENTIONS, CAPE TOWN FIVE SUGGEST THERE IS A NEED FOR MAKING THE FIRST SENTENCE IN THE PROPOSED TALKING POINTS FOR THE FRONTLINE STATES LESS SPECIFIC AND CATEGORIC. THEY ALSO SUGGEST THE TALKING POINTS AS PROPOSED CONTAIN ELEMENTS WHICH WOULD TEND TO STRENGTHEN NEGATIVE FRONTLINE REACTION TO WHATEVER MOVE SOUTH AFRICA OR THE AG MAY MAKE WITH RESPECT TO VOTER REGISTRATION. FOR THESE REASONS, THE CAPE TOWN FIVE RECOMMEND MODIFICATIONS IN THE FIRST AND SECOND SENTENCES OF THE TALKING POINTS AS WELL AS DELETION OF THE SENTENCE BEGINNING "THE SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION WILL..." AND THE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SENTENCE.

4. THE TALKING POINTS WOULD THEN READ: "THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED US THAT THEY ARE CONSIDERING CONFIDENTIAL

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THE NEED TO PROCEED SHORTLY WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE PROCEDURES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IN NAMIBIA. WE HAVE TOLD PRIME MINISTER VORSTER THAT WE ARE OPPOSED TO ANY SUCH ACTION AND THAT ANY REGISTRATION OF VOTERS WOULD BE REGARDED BY OUR GOVERNMENTS AS "A ONE-SIDED STEP CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF A VITAL PROVISION OF THE PROPOSAL WHICH SOUTH AFRICA HAS ACCEPTED.' WE HAVE STRESSED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WITH WHICH THE UN SPECIAL REP MUST BE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED AND WITH WHICH HE MUST BE FULLY SATISFIED. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS AND OTHER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS UNDERLINE THE NEED FOR EARLY PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT TO OUR PROPOSAL. PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAS INFORMED US OF HIS DESIRE FOR A FRONTLINE SUMMIT ON NAMIBIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND WE HOPE THAT THIS MEETING WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF ALL OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION."

5. AS THIS MESSAGE WAS BEING COMPLETED, SCOTT CALLED TO SAY FOURIE HAD JUST TOLD HIM "IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO GET AROUND THE DATE IN QUESTION" AND HE WOULD LET SCOTT

KNOW BEFORE NOON TOMORROW, JUNE 8.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS, VOTER REGISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET01140
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780247-0074
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780688/aaaacxfb.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5d485e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 2302
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2460065
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: APPROACH TO FRONTLINE STATES
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, PINT, SF, WA
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5d485e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014